



PRICES



May 1, 2000

PRICES RECEIVED BY FLORIDA FARMERS

Prices received by cattle producers in mid-April were mixed compared with the entire month of March. The hog prices at \$37.20 per cwt, was down 40 cents from last month but \$12.40 more than last year. The price for cows at \$39.60 per cwt was 80 cents less than the previous month but \$5.50 more than a year earlier. Steers and heifers at \$86.60 per cwt, were \$1.00 higher than March 2000 and \$19.80 more than a year earlier. Calves were \$2.00 per cwt more than a month earlier and \$29.10 above the previous year.

The milk price estimate for April averaged \$14.90, unchanged from last month but 40 cents more than April 1999. The commercial broiler price at 35.0 cents per pound was 1.0 cent higher than a month earlier but 3.0 cents less than the previous year. Table eggs were 43.0 cents a dozen, up 2.0 cents and 15.0 cents from last month and last year, respectively.

US PRICE INDEXES

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 99 based on 1990-92=100, up 4 points (4.2 percent) from the March Index. Higher prices for hogs, broilers, eggs, and strawberries more than offset price decreases for cotton, corn, grapefruit, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall Index. Higher seasonal marketings of cattle, strawberries, milk, and oranges more than offset the relatively lower marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and hogs.

These marketing changes accounted for one point of the April Index increase.

Compared with April 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 3 points (3.1 percent) higher. Price increases from April 1999 for hogs, cattle, tomatoes, and calves more than offset price decreases for lettuce, milk, oranges, and carrots.

PRICES PAID INDEX UP 1 POINT

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 119 percent of the 1990-92 average. The Index was unchanged from March but 4 points (3.5 percent) above April 1999. Lower prices in April for LP gas, feed grains, feed concentrates, and diesel fuel were offset by higher prices for feeder cattle, hay and forages, feeder pigs, and self-propelled machinery.

INDEX SUMMARY TABLE

Index 1990-92=100	1999		2000	
	Mar	Apr	Mar	Apr
Prices Received	97	96	95	99
Prices Paid	115	115	119	119
Ratio ^{1/}	84	83	80	83

^{1/} Prices Received/Prices Paid.

Average price received by farmers ^{1/}

Commodity	Unit	Florida			United States		
		April 1999	March 2000	April 2000	April 1999	March 2000	April 2000
Meat animals:							
Hogs	\$ per cwt	24.80	37.60	37.20	30.10	41.80	46.90
Cows	\$ per cwt	34.10	40.40	39.60	35.10	39.00	41.30
Steers & heifers	\$ per cwt	66.80	85.60	86.60	66.00	73.40	73.80
Calves	\$ per cwt	85.90	113.00	115.00	88.20	109.00	110.00
Milk: ^{2/}							
Sold to plants, all	\$ per cwt	14.50	14.90	14.90	12.60	11.90	11.90
Poultry:							
Com'l broilers	Cents per lb.	38.0	34.0	35.0	35.4	34.9	36.5
Table eggs	Cents per doz.	28.0	41.0	43.0	42.8	38.2	47.7
Citrus, on tree:							
Oranges	\$ per box	5.52	3.48	4.24	6.09	3.54	4.14
Grapefruit	\$ per box	2.29	3.59	2.81	2.49	3.63	2.82
Tangerines	\$ per box	17.91	7.46	7.82	16.47	7.87	8.71
Field crops:							
Potatoes	\$ per cwt	16.50	16.00	14.50	6.50	6.33	6.62
Hay, baled	\$ per ton	**	**	**	82.50	74.80	80.70
Tobacco, Type 11-37	Cents per lb.	**	**	**	150.5	179.0	155.1
Peanuts	Cents per lb.	**	**	**	**	**	**
Corn*	\$ per bu.				2.04	2.03	2.01
Oats*	\$ per bu.				1.18	1.28	1.24
Cotton*	Cents per lb.				55.6	47.9	45.0
Sorghum*	\$ per cwt				3.09	3.21	3.15
Soybeans*	\$ per bu.				4.63	4.91	4.99
Wheat, Winter*	\$ per bu.				2.48	2.38	2.29

^{1/} Eggs and hay estimates are midmonth prices. Prices for the latest month are midmonth estimates for grains and soybeans, and mostly first half of month for meat animals. Other estimates are for the entire month. ^{2/} Before deductions for hauling and government withholding, and includes quantity and other premiums, but excludes hauling subsidies. *Only marketing year average prices are estimated for Florida, except oats and sorghum which are not estimated. ** Not estimated this month.

HIGHLIGHTS--U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES

ALL CROPS: The April Index was 99, up 5.3 percent from March but 3.9 percent below April 1999. Price increases from March for vegetables, fruit and nuts, oilseeds, potatoes and dry beans, and feed grains and hay more than offset price decreases for cotton, food grains, and tobacco.

FOOD GRAINS: The April Food Grains Index, at 85, was down 1.2 percent from the previous month and 11 percent below April 1999. The April all wheat price, at \$2.55 per bushel, was down 4 cents from the March price and 7 cents below April 1999. The rice price, at \$5.82 per cwt, was unchanged from last month but \$2.67 below a year earlier.

FEED GRAINS & HAY: The April Index was 91, up 1.1 percent from last month but 1.1 percent below April 1999. The corn price, at \$2.01 per bushel, was down 2 cents from March and 3 cents below the April 1999 price. The all hay price, at \$80.70 per ton, was up \$5.90 from last month but \$1.80 below April 1999.

OIL-BEARING CROPS: The April Oil-Bearing Crops Index, at 89, was up 1.1 percent from the March Index and 7.2 percent above April 1999. The soybean price, at \$4.99 per bushel, increased 8 cents from March and was 36 cents above April 1999.

COTTON: The April Index, at 74, was down 6.3 percent from March and 20 percent below April 1999. The cotton price, at 45.0 cents per pound, was down 2.9 cents from March and 10.6 cents from last April.

LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS: The April Index, at 99, was up 3.1 percent from last month and up 8.8 percent from April 1999. Compared with a year ago, prices were higher for hogs, cattle, calves, broilers, eggs, and turkeys but lower for all milk.

MEAT ANIMALS: The April Index, at 98, was up 3.2 percent from last month and 21 percent from a year ago. The April hog price was \$46.90 per cwt, up \$5.10 from March and \$16.80 from a year ago. Strong retail demand for pork continues to hold prices up. The April beef cattle price of \$70.10 was up 30 cents from last month and up \$7.40 from April 1999.

DAIRY PRODUCTS: The April Index, at 91, was unchanged from March but down 5.2 percent from April 1999. The April all milk price, at \$11.90 per cwt, was unchanged from March but down 70 cents from last year. Manufacturing grade milk price was down 10 cents from last month. April fluid grade milk price was unchanged from last month. Cheese prices were unchanged the first week of April but down slightly the second week.

POULTRY AND EGGS: The April Index, at 111, was up 6.7 percent from March and 3.7 percent above a year ago. The April broiler price, at 36.5 cents per pound, was up 1.6 cents from March. Domestic demand was moderate and export demand has been very high. Market egg prices increased 9.5 cents to 47.7 cents per dozen. Supplies of eggs were adequate overall, and demand was up for Easter. Turkey prices increased 1.6 cents to 39.8 cents per pound, following a normal seasonal increase.

Prices received for Selected Agricultural Commodities, by months, United States, 1999 and 2000										
Month	All wheat		Corn		Soybeans		Beef cattle ^{1/}		All hogs	
	1999	2000 ^{2/}	1999	2000 ^{2/}	1999	2000 ^{2/}	1999	2000 ^{2/}	1999	2000 ^{2/}
	Dollars per bushel					Dollars per cwt				
Jan	2.84	2.50	2.06	1.90	5.32	4.62	59.00	67.80	26.50	36.80
Feb	2.73	2.54	2.05	1.98	4.80	4.79	60.60	67.60	27.70	39.90
Mar	2.65	2.59	2.06	2.03	4.61	4.91	62.40	69.80	28.00	41.80
Apr	2.62	2.55	2.04	2.01	4.63	4.99	62.70	70.10	30.10	46.90
May	2.49		1.99		4.50		62.10		36.60	
Jun	2.50		1.97		4.44		63.70		34.10	
Jul	2.23		1.74		4.19		62.60		31.60	
Aug	2.52		1.75		4.39		63.50		36.20	
Sep	2.57		1.75		4.57		63.80		33.90	
Oct	2.58		1.69		4.47		66.20		34.20	
Nov	2.66		1.70		4.45		66.20		33.40	
Dec	2.52		1.82		4.44		66.60		35.60	

^{1/} Cows, steers, and heifers. ^{2/} Current month prices are mid-month; prices for previous months are for the entire month.